

# izindaba



Issue 2 • May/June

Inzindaba means "news" in Zulu, and is a joint publication of the Bay Area Southern Africa Network (BASAN) and the United States-South Africa Sister Community Project (USSASCP). Inzindaba contains news and information from Southern Africa and highlights activities in the Bay Area concerning issues of Southern African solidarity.

This is the second edition of a trial newsletter we are sending to local activists, organizations and individuals interested in Southern African issues. Both BASAN and SCP have long recognized the need in the Bay Area for regular news about Southern African and local events. We need your support and feedback to make this a successful and long-lasting effort. In addition, we need volunteers to help with editorial contributions, mailing parties, production, design/graphics and other tasks. Please see the last page of this newsletter for more details.

## Izindaba

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The following summary of news in South Africa is written in Johannesburg by Sister Community Project's correspondent, Sylise Petersen. Sources include most of South Africa's national papers, leftist journals and informal interviews. These bi-monthly updates are also available via e-mail or fax. For more information contact the Sister Community Project at (510) 601-7635 or email: [ussascp@igc.apc.org](mailto:ussascp@igc.apc.org).

### 1. INKULULEKO! (FREEDOM!)

South Africans celebrated their first anniversary of the new democratic government this week! Throughout the country, celebrations were held to mark the country's first birthday. The largest gathering congregated at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, where President Mandela was

the main speaker. The President commended South Africans for their participation in the country's smooth transition to democracy. Local musicians were also on hand to entertain the jubilant crowd. The new government, already burdened with scandals involving some of its ministers, have performed reasonably well, despite these setbacks. They have to battle

with stubborn, old style bureaucrats who oppose change. The new government inherited more than 40 years of financial mismanagement and institutionalized segregation, spanning all aspects of civil life. Simultaneously, they have to redress the subsequent imbalances in health, housing and education, which mostly affect the black population.



people, enjoys widespread support from the business and local communities, but the government has been slow in implementing projects that will directly benefit people on the grassroots level. Some of the new government's gains have benefited the disenfranchised, but have also led to congested public services. For example, free health care to children under six years of age (at least 46 out of every 1,000 infants die in South Africa every year) and pregnant women has led to overcrowded hospitals and extremely dissatisfied medical staff. Unable to cope with the influx of patients, doctors and nurses are embarking on strike actions to draw attention to their heavy workload, for which they are insufficiently remunerated. Latest figures show that there are approximately 1.5 doctors for every 10,000 patients. This problem is compounded further by disillusioned doctors who leave the public service to set up private practices. This year the government gave free education for all grade 1 students. During the election campaign, the ANC promised compulsory education for the first ten years of schooling, to be gradually phased in. All attempts by the government have been met with fierce resistance from communities and bureaucrats alike. Recently, the government dissolved the 14 education departments into nine provincial education departments. But their efforts will take a long time before coming to fruition. At least 1.3 million families live in make shift homes in the country. Another 20,000 will be added to waiting lists

for homes around the country, annually. The government promised to build at least 1 million homes in the course of five years. So far only a few thousand homes have been built.

## 2. WINNIE IS BETTER

Winnie Mandela, who was hospitalised for an electrolyte disorder and subsequently, diabetes, has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home. A spokesman for the hospital where she spent the last few days, says her condition is 'satisfactory'.

## 3. THE BAROLONG RETURN TO THEIR ANCESTRAL LAND!

After 25 years of being forcibly removed from their ancestral home in Matjaviestad, near Potchefstroom in the Western Transvaal, the Barolong jubilantly returned home this week. The people, ranging in age from eight to eighty, sang joyously as they packed their meager belongings by candlelight, and awaited the trucks that took them back to their beloved land. The Barolong resisted removal for almost thirty years. But eventually, they were forcibly removed after the government systematically rendered them powerless against the removal. By 1966, the government imposed heavy taxes on their livestock and their homes. Those unable to pay the taxes had their livestock impounded. Part of their ancestral land was fenced off and the Barolong were not

allowed access to it. The local school, which most of the Barolong children attended, was de-regulated. In 1971, the Barolong were relocated to a strip of barren land called Rooigrond (Red Ground) in the former homeland of Bophuthatswana. The tribe lost 18,000 head of cattle during the move. Each member of the tribe, according to the chief, received R18,20 in compensation. The Barolong own approximately 3,849 hectares of land. Since their removal, the displaced tribe fought for the return of their land. They eventually won the right to tend to their ancestral graves once a year. In 1990 and 1991, some members of the tribe went to re-occupy their land peacefully; on both occasions they were arrested for trespassing. National Land Minister Derek Hanekom confirmed that the land was bought back from the Potchefstroom municipality for R600 per hectare. The municipality resisted the resale of the land as long as they possibly could, but a breakthrough in the deadlock was reached after the intervention of Minister Hanekom.

## 4. MANDELA MEMORABILIA AUCTIONED

Last Friday night over R500,000 was raised in a unique fundraising venture: The President's personal effects were auctioned to raise funds for the ANC Western Cape's past election bill of approximately R300,000. The rest of the funds will go



towards training ANC members who will take up posts in the local government after the November local elections. The most prized item was President Mandela's shoes that he wore the first time he met with then president, PW Botha. The shoes went for R6,500. President Mandela recalled how his warden had to tie his shoelaces and fix his tie. He quipped, 'after 26 years, I had forgotten how!'

### 5. THE BOESAK SAGA CONTINUES

Last week Advocate Mojanku Gumbi, who was appointed by the office of Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki to investigate Dr. Boesak's alleged misappropriation of funds, issued a three page report on her findings, effectively clearing Dr. Boesak of all wrong doing. Based on her report, President Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, declared that Dr. Boesak deserves a 'highposting'. But Dr. Boesak's elation was short-lived and the ANC has been embarrassed. Criticism from all sectors have declared the

report 'superficial and a whitewash.'. Politicians and clerics condemned the findings implying that the ANC is involved in a 'cover up.' A battle ensued between Advocate Gumbi and the lawyers, Bell, Dewar and Hall, who drew up the initial report that found that Dr. Boesak had 'substantially enriched himself.' The law firm refutes all of Advocate Gumbi's findings. Advocate Gumbi later admitted that her report is 'inconclusive' and that only the findings the OSEO (Office for Serious Economic Offenses), can let justice 'run its course.' A spokesman for the OSEO says their investigation should be completed by the end of the year. In a new development, Dr. Boesak admits he secured several million rands from a Malaysian donor to replenish the rapidly depleting funds in the ANC's election campaign last year. Dr. Boesak confirmed this but would not provide an actual amount of money received. The ANC denied any knowledge of this transaction. Meanwhile, Danchurch (the organisation that Dr. Boesak is alleged to

have defrauded) is considering legal action against Dr. Boesak.

### 6. PRISONERS RELEASED AS A GOODWILL GESTURE

On Freedom Day, President Mandela announced that at least 15,000 prisoners will be released from South Africa's overcrowded jails, in a bid to address the problems of overcrowding, prison riots and frequent escapes that is currently plaguing the country's prisons. As a goodwill gesture, President Mandela said he hoped that communities will assist in re-integrating the prisoners back into mainstream society. A maximum of six months will be cut off from prison sentences, making at least 3,848 prisoners eligible for immediate release. Another 12,000 will eventually be released into the community under correctional supervision or early parole. This gesture reduces the prison population from a chronically congested 117,000 prisoners to about 100,000 prisoners. Prisoners who are convicted for child abuse or are mentally ill are excluded from the amnesty.





# Local news & events

Anyone interested in listing events in this section, can fax the information to (510) 548-3502 or call (415) 641-0131. Please keep descriptions brief and include a contact telephone number.

## ✕ Saturday, June 24: Dance & Birthday Party for Vukani Mawethu!

Featuring West African dancers and D.J. Sweetwaist, who will play world beat, salsa, sukous music

The Bay Area Southern Africa Network is throwing a birthday party for Vukani Mawethu to celebrate the choir's commitment and long-standing contribution to Southern Africa. Proceeds will go to Vukani's cultural trip to South Africa planned for the end of this year. For more information, call (510) 444-5009

Saturday, June 24	8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.
S.F. Women's Building	3543 18th Street, San Francisco (16th Street Mission BART station)
\$8 donation (sliding scale)	Wheelchair accessible

## ✕ Saturday, June 24: Symposium with South African Ambassador Franklin Sonn

As part of the U.N. 50th Anniversary celebration, the Vesper Society is sponsoring a symposium, "South Africa: Cahnages and Challenges for the Future", featuring South African Ambassador Franklin Sonn.

9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Venue yet to be determined
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For more details, call Robert Krieger at (510) 444-7774, ext 109.

In addition, there will be a reception honoring Ambassador Sonn on Thursday, June 22:

Allen Temple Baptist Church	6:00 p.m.
8500 A Street, Oakland	Call (510) 444-7774 for more details

## ✕ Friday, June 23: Dance the Night Away with Loco Bloco

featuring Youth Bateria

A benefit for the National People's Campaign (NPC). The NPC is a new, broad-based, growing coalition with chapters in more than 65 cities, endorsed by over 600 organizations and prominent individuals. The NPC is dedicated to defeating the "Contract on America," defending affirmative action, and overturning Prop. 187. For more information about NPC or tickets to this event, call (415) 821-6545

Friday, June 23	8:00 p.m. to midnight
Women's Building	3543 18th Street, San Francisco
Tickets: \$6 (advance)	Refreshments & no host bar
\$8 (at the door)	

### African Hotline: (510) 652-2557

The African Hotline, a public service project, was created to update the community on local events in the Bay Area focusing on Africa. The Hotline is recorded Wednesday evenings and runs Thursday through Wednesday, and includes events on Africa, such as music, theater, art exhibits, political meetings, African-sponsored association meetings, media coverage and special events. Groups or individuals that would like to have events put on the Hotline can call Barbara Miller-Elegbede at (510) 652-8378.



# Get involved...3 things you can do:

## 1. Help Welcome Jacob Moatshe to the Bay Area

Jacob Moatshe, Community Development Liaison in Oukasie, Berkeley's sister community will be here for two weeks in late June. Escorts with cars are especially needed during the day and evenings to drive him to meetings and events. The Host Committee is also looking for a place for Jacob to stay from approximately June 22 through July 4. If you have a few hours to lend a hand, or would like to join the Berkeley-Oukasie Sister Community Project Host Committee, please call Co-Chairs Amar Casey at (510) 632-0485 or Kathryn Kasch at (510) 533-9169.

## 2. John George Science Education Fund

BASAN and the Berkeley-Oukasie Sister Community Project will formally launch the John George Fund in a few weeks. Named in memory of John George, former chair of BASAN, the project raises money for science education text books, equipment and teacher training in Oukasie. A mega-mailing party is being planned for late May. If you have two hours to help stuff envelopes, please call (510) 540-7281.

## 3. Become a member of BASAN!

The Bay Area Southern Africa Network (BASAN) is a coalition of over 25 community, civic, labor, church, academic, cultural organizations and individuals in the greater Berkeley-Oakland and San Francisco area. BASAN sponsors political events, educational forums, receptions for Southern African visitors and other activities in support of the economic and social development of the entire Southern African region. For more information, call (510) 444-5009.

BASAN meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month:

Place: Community room  
La Peña Cultural Center  
3105 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (near Ashby BART)

Time: 10:00 a.m.





# Updates...

## Mozambique

summaries provided by Sandy McGunegill

**Mozambique Government:** Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano has almost completed the installation of members of the new government.

**Assembly:** The Assembly of the Republic (Mozambican Parliament) re-convened with all parties in attendance. Frelimo has changed its position on the use of secret ballots, accepting that the chairman be elected by secret ballot rather than by a show of hands. At the first session of the newly elected parliament on December 6, Frelimo deputies insisted that the chairman be elected openly, arguing that citizens had a right to know which way its representatives voted. Opposition parties Renamo and the Democratic Union said that only secret voting was democratic. They stormed out of the chamber and did not return until this current session. This session has, however, been running smoothly, without major disruptions. Deputies of the new assembly spent several days debating their own salaries, rights and privileges, with many differences of opinion falling along party lines. On April 21 Prime Minister Dr. Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi presented the Government Program for the next 5 years outlining objectives and priorities in the areas of education, health, rural development and employment.

**Budget:** On April 27, the Mozambican Minister of Finances and Planning, Tomas Salomao, presented the 1995 General Budget to the Parliament. Problems affecting the country's economy included the fact that Mozambique is highly dependent on external aid, with over half the budget coming from foreign donors. Also, the government will attempt to put an end to tax evasion and flight through reform of the customs sector. The budget is calculated at 5.5 thousand billion meticals (about 7 billion US dollars). During 1995, the government will attempt to reduce the budget deficit from 30% to 20%, while increasing expenditures from 18% to 21%.

**Crime:** Robbery, murder, and carjacking have increased dramatically in the last several months. Mozambique's Home Affairs minister Colonel Manuel Antonio, who has recently come under severe criticism from the press and civic groups, has decided to create an institute of study for the national police force (RPM), to improve their professionalism. He believes that the lack of civic education has led to mass violations of police ethics. Ninety-eight policemen were expelled from the force for violations in the first 3 months of 1995. Efforts are also being made to try to improve the criteria for selection and training of police officers and to fight bribery. The United Nations peace-keeping force left Mozambique at the end of the U.N. mandate last December before completing the dismantling of arms caches, warning the new government to continue with this work. As a result, Colonel Antonio said the number of illegal holders of arms has increased, contributing to the latest increase in crime. He said that a master plan had been drawn up for the collection of illegal arms which includes stepping up patrols along the mainroads, re-establishment of police district commands and the enlargement of cooperation between RPM and neighboring countries' police forces. Manuel Antonio also blamed the vacuum of authority following the dismantling of militiamen as part of implementation of the 1992 peace for the sharp increase in crime. In the first 3 months of this year, the police dismantled 30 gangs of armed assailants, 69 arms caches with large quantities of weaponry and captured more than 2,500 illegal arms.

**Curtas (Clips):** -A Communist Party has been formed in Mozambique.

-Street kids in Mozambique's capital, Maputo, and in the country's other urban areas are the main drug consumers and easy targets of prostitution. The exact number of street kids is not known, but it is believed there are up to 1,000 of them in Maputo alone.

Source of the above news update: AIM-(Mozambique Information Agency)



# East Bay Sister Community Project Builds Strong Partnership

by Rachel Richman

Berkeley's sister community, Oukasie, is a small township one hour from Pretoria. In 1988, Berkeley became the first American city to link with a South African community being threatened with forced removal. At the time, the apartheid government was trying to force residents from their home of 60 years. Oukasie won that fight and today two new schools have been built, a clinic went up last year, and houses are finally beginning to get electricity. However, much remains to be done to reverse the damage done by apartheid.

When Berkeley activists asked the teachers in their South African sister community of Oukasie for a list of the most pressing needs in the schools, the response was a four-page, single-spaced list of items! It included just about everything -- from school sports equipment to microscopes, teacher training to world globes, textbooks to dictionaries. In response, the Berkeley-Oukasie Sister Community Project launched an ambitious and successful fundraising effort, raising thousands of dollars for the schools and making a real difference in the lives of a new generation of South Africans. Volunteers organized a number of fundraising events during the past year including a brunch featuring Assemblywoman Barbara Lee, Belvie Rooks and Pearl-Alice Marsh, a dinner with Chris Benner and Myesha Jenkins, a slide show featuring the photos of Catherine Allport and a "dance-til-you-drop" party honoring visiting South Africans. Two funds were initiated; the SEAN Project, in memory of community leader Sean Gordon, raised money for school sports and the John George Science Education Fund, which will be formally launched in the next few weeks. "We've worked collaboratively with our colleagues in South Africa to develop good programs here which raise money for priority projects there," said Nalini Persaud, Program Committee Chair. "It's really been a two-way street."

Recently, the Project got a big boost through the Public Administration Fellowship Program, which brought Elliot Mayisela of Oukasie to the City of Berkeley for three months of intensive, hands-on preparation for local governance. It was one of twelve sister community placements by the US-South Africa Sister Community Project. "Having Elliot and Nyanisile Boyce here was a real catalyst for getting people involved," said Kate Emanuel, coordinator of the national Fellowship Program and a Berkeley-Oukasie volunteer. The Project has drawn volunteers from Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond and San Francisco. Nyanisile Boyce, a Councilmember from Port Elizabeth, was placed with the City of San Francisco. Their visit was coordinated by a joint San Francisco/Mfengu - Berkeley/Oukasie Host Committee. Over 100 community activists, elected officials and community leaders opened their homes (and their hearts) to the visitors. A new Host Committee, chaired by Kathryn Kasch and Amar Casey, is planning a June visit by Jacob Moatshe, the dynamic community development liaison for Oukasie.

In recognition of the Project's efforts, Berkeley volunteers were invited to a private meeting with the Honorable Franklin Sonn, South African Ambassador to the United States, when he visited Berkeley in March. Together with Drs. Robert Price and Martha Saavedra, UC Chancellor Tien, and a few UC faculty and staff, the Sister Community Project discussed ways to build and strengthen links between Berkeley and South Africa.

The mission of the Berkeley-Oukasie Sister Community Project is to build a strong partnership with our colleagues in Oukasie and South Africa. We do this through fundraising and programs to support the schools and community development, and professional development programs designed to provide opportunities for South Africans to come to the Bay Area to exchange ideas and skills. We undertake this work within the broader context of supporting democracy, equality and a progressive vision for the new South Africa.

## How you can help:

For information about upcoming events or to get on the mailing list, call (510) 540-7281

- To join the Program Committee, call Nalini Persaud at (510) 452-1967
- To join the Host Committee, call Amar Casey at (510) 632-0485 or Kathryn Kasch at (510) 533-9169
- To join the Mailing Party Committee, call (510) 540-7281
- To help with the newsletter call Chris Benner at (510) 524-3525

If you're interested in starting a sister community program in your city, call the US-South Africa Sister Community Project at (510) 601-7635.



## NOTES BY PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA AT THE RALLY AT UMLAZI STADIUM TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF MAY DAY - 1995

Master of Ceremonies, Comrade Jacob Zuma, Comrade John Gomomo:

It gives me great pleasure to join you today in the celebrations of May Day. It is a special honour for me to be part of you in Durban, not only to mark this day, but to come to the birth place of your giant Trade Union Federation, Cosatu, ten years ago. May Day celebrations will always be emotive occasions, because while we celebrate the sacrifices of the working people to make the world a better place to live in, we are also reminded of our failure to eradicate poverty and deprivation and replace them with a more caring and humane society. Cosatu has also decided to celebrate this day as a Family Day. The Government of National Unity recognizes this innovative way of paying tribute to our workers who despite the initiatives we are taking to remove racial barriers and constraints on the shop-floor, continue to suffer from the ravages of a workplace whose ethic has been defined by centuries of racial division and exploitation. We must pay particular tribute to the migrant workers who despite the enormous strains that labour system imposed on their lives and families, made such a selfless contribution to the development of our country. The Government has just released a report of a commission of inquiry on safety in the mines. I am saddened by the still critical safety situation in the mines and other workplaces. The government and all other role players have a responsibility to address this situation without delay. As you mark this day as a Family Day, we send our greetings to those members and heads of families. We have just completed our first year in government. A historic achievement abetted in no small part by your historic sacrifices over decades of struggle. I am confident that we have made a good start. We have launched several Presidential lead projects of the RDP. A legislative programme is underway to bring a bout major institutional reform and deepen our democracy. Other than the sporadic incidents of violence in KwaZulu - Natal, which are regrettable, the country is at peace with itself. We have created an environment that engenders investor confidence and amenable to economic growth. The government programme is on course towards increasing visible change and delivery. Despite the initiatives that we announced in the course of the last twelve months, and some of which I have mentioned above, we have spent a greater part of our first year in office finalising our plans. The responsibility is now on the shoulders of both government and the workers to steer the country towards greater stability and peace, building one nation and promoting reconciliation, creating jobs and building more houses, schools and clinics. It would be a grave mistake for anyone to sit back and expect the government to wave a magic wand of delivery. We have to work together in the spirit of magic wand of delivery. We have to work together in the spirit of Masakhane. While the workers and their organisations have a right to demand delivery from the government, it is equally their responsibility to ensure that there is delivery. As we nurture our new democracy, we must be careful not to disempower our people. The Government, the representatives of the workers and business have established Nedlac as a forum to facilitate tri-partite cooperation between the three role players in the economy. Maximum use must be made of this forum so that the much needed economic growth can be attained. We are almost into the annual round of wage negotiations. During this period last year, a high degree of hysteria was generated about industrial peace which was, in the eyes of some, fast disappearing. I wish to appeal to both labour and business to handle this period in a way that does not undermine the confidence which we are gradually winning from across the spectrum of public opinion, both in the country and abroad. The Minister of Labour, Comrade Tito Mboweni, has published the Labour Relations Bill. The initial reaction has been overwhelming. I am once more delighted by the enthusiasm with which different labour organisations have received this Bill. I am also heartened by the constructive submissions which have been made by other sectors of South African society. More than ever before, the challenge facing you is to organise workers from the white community. Despite the long history of racism and apartheid, white workers remain exploited. The disquiet within the ranks of the police force are an indication of the extent to which the iron rule of the previous apartheid regime suppressed discontent. In negotiations with public sector representatives, we have introduced a phased improvement in the wage conditions of the public service. We are determined that in the coming three years, we shall cover significant ground in closing the gap between lower and higher rank of the state employees. This we can do with your co-operation. I have noted with interest the developing debates about the formation of one Trade Union Federation in the country. The development would go a long way in strengthening the voice of the workers and in promoting the much needed National Unity in all sectors of our society... May I conclude by urging all of you here to do your all, to enhance the registration campaign for the local government election. We have only 36 days left before the date of closure. The government has extended the registration deadline to send the message about the importance of local governance. Let every factory and mine be mobilised for the registration campaign and the local government elections. As the Alliance, we would like to see more direct participation of COSATU, at all levels of the election structures so that we can complete the democratization of our country.



# South African Fellowship Spurs Solidarity

by Nadya Williams

While U.S. activists fight to save what meager social protections we have for women and children, the new South Africa is on a different course, building an entirely new social infrastructure. Eliot Mayisela and Nyanisile Boyce, South African activists who worked as interns in Bay Area city governments earlier this year, both point with pride to the establishment of free medical care for pregnant women and young children by the 10-month old Government of National Unity. The two young men arrived in the Bay Area in late January for a three-month study under the auspices of the Berkeley-Oukasie and San Francisco-Mfengu Sister Community Projects. Mayisela, 28, interned at Berkeley City Hall and Boyce, 24, worked in San Francisco. They saw their fellowships as preparatory mechanisms for their African National Congress (ANC) candidacies for city council seats back home this October.

With the crucial local government elections, says Mayisela, "We seek to change the total fabric of South Africa, to shift the power of the white racist minority to the hands of the people. But," he adds, "we must remember that the ANC was not elected with 100 percent of the vote, but with 63 percent. We are in a very difficult and complicated process. This is the most important phase of our struggle, and we must consolidate international support."

"Now is definitely the time to renew solidarity with South Africa," says Jean Damu, newly elected chair of the Bay Area Southern Africa Network (BASAN), formerly the Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network. The Sister Community project offers one means of doing so, by linking U.S. cities with South African townships which were not recognized by the past apartheid government and were targeted for forced removal.

"I was arrested in '86 while I was still in [secondary] school, for my membership in the South African Youth Congress and our resistance to the removal of the 18,000 resident of Oukasie, outside of Pretoria," says Mayisela. "It was only in 1990 that we won recognition as a township in the South African courts. Now we are putting our efforts toward the upcoming municipal elections to complete the transformation to majority rule at the local level."

Adds Boyce, who is from the Mfengu/Port Elizabeth area on the Indian Ocean, "We really cannot initiate the Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) until we have secured representation on the ground at the local level. It's been one year since the historic democratic election, and the ANC and RDP promised jobs and better housing, but people expected immediate changes and those changes will take time. So far, the major accomplishments have been in the areas of health care, the Land Clams Court, some new housing and the initiation of integration in the security forces and in education," he says.

As interns, Boyce and Mayisela enjoyed extensive over-the-shoulder observations and information exchanges with local officials, social service agencies, and advocacy groups. Mayisela worked with Berkeley City Council members Maudelle Shirek and Linda Maio and City Manager Weldon Rucker; Boyce spent time with San Francisco city departments--the Office of Community Development, Housing Authority and Department of Social Services among them.

"The level of enthusiasm and participation has been much more than we expected", says Kate Emanuel, Project Coordinator of the South African Fellowship Program. "Eliot and Nyanisile could teach all of us a lot about community organizing, and they are making the most of their work with city government staff and with the many community groups they have met."

Walter Turner, Africa correspondent for Pacifica radio station KPFA and professor at the College of Marin, reiterates the need for solidarity as the "critically important" Fall local elections approach. "In the past year or two it's almost been like a Marshall Plan of people going to South Africa and working through the established organizations, like COSATU, the civic organizations, the ANC, women's organizations, etc." says Turner.

He suggests that people plug into organizations like BASAN or the Washington Office on Africa, and lend their special skills either here or in South Africa: "Day-to-day, people can keep South Africa alive, keep it on the agenda in their unions, schools, and churches."

## PRESENTATION OF ISITHWALANDWE/SEAPARANKOE TO THE FAMILY OF JOE SLOVO.

CITATION ISITHWALANDWE - SEAPARANKOE JOE SLOVO - May 1, 1995

I, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, President of the African National Congress, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the national Executive Committee of the African National Congress and in the name of the people of South Africa who hereby confer on JOE SLOVO the high award of Isithwalandwe/Seaparankoe, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the struggle for the total eradication of the apartheid crime against humanity and the transformation of South Africa into a united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist country. We commend him to the people of our country and the world, convinced that his memory will live forever.



## ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DEBATE

May 2, 1995 ✠ Issued by the Office of The President

Madame Speaker; Deputy-President FW de Klerk; Ministers and Deputy Ministers; Honourable Members of Parliament; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Five days ago, South Africans joined together in celebrating South Africa Freedom Day. Events in various parts of the country and further afield showed the outpouring of joy at the unique achievements in our First Freedom Year. The goodwill, optimism and enthusiasm of the people confirm the allegiance that the overwhelming majority of South Africans owe to the motherland and its constitutional structures.

I once more take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the nation for making this smooth transition possible; and to the international community for their support and encouragement. I also wish to congratulate Minister Ben Ngubane and his team for the splendid work done to ensure a fitting commemoration of this most important national day.

South Africans are at one that the benchmarks of the First Freedom Year, such as peace and stability, the culture of human rights, national unity and reconciliation, the first steps towards improving the quality of life of the people, and the new status and role of South Africa in world affairs - all these are historic achievements that we must protect like the apple of our eye. The nation is in agreement that we need to use these successes as a platform to do even better in the coming year.

Madame Speaker: Today, the 2nd of May marks yet another significant anniversary. As this day drew to a close exactly a year ago, the in-coming election results had established a clear trend concerning the outcome. In a sense, that was the moment when our leadership across the spectrum was severely tested: the nation had spoken, and the question was, whether the leaders would follow. In the event, virtually all leaders acknowledged the outcome and pledged to work with together and with the ANC for the good of the country. The past 12 months have borne witness to a remarkable fulfillment of this pledge. On behalf of the Government of National Unity, I wish to thank all the parties within and without this chamber, for their co-operation in carrying out the tasks we face as a nation. And so, five days into the Second Freedom Year, we are encouraged by the abiding national sense of purpose that has become the hallmark of our society. For us, as leaders, the symbolism of it all is supremely reassuring. But the critical issue is what we are doing jointly and severally to harness this goodwill to change South Africa for the better. This requires frankness in our appraisal of developments, as well as boldness in identifying and rectifying our weaknesses.

Madame Speaker: History has so decreed that our comprehensive task of transforming South African society, should take place through constitutional and legislative means, and not by decree. We are fortunate in this regard, because our unique settlement has afforded our country such outstanding co-operation among various political forces. In the short space of a year, we have been able to introduce democratic norms and a style of government that is rare even among well-established democracies. Institutions such as the Constitutional Court, the Human Rights Commission, the Judicial Service Commission, the Independent Broadcasting Authority and many others - and the consultative and open manner in which we operate - are laying the basis for the flourishing of our democracy. In the legislatures, laws and policy frameworks on such matters as land, education, labour, the budget, the public service, security and intelligence services, truth and reconciliation, prisons and sport have either been passed or introduced, with the concurrence of the political parties in cabinet. The current session will see more of these. All this is helping to lay a solid framework for the building of a better life. What this means is that we need to work even more systematically to ensure that this framework is completed as soon as possible. All the time, we must critically ask the question, whether the pace of our legislative work reflects the requirements of the historic mission we have. It is crucial that the executive and the legislature put their heads together, and work out ways in which we can improve on this critical aspect of our work. Without undercutting the laudable consultative process, or the desire to do everything to perfection, we should ensure that the task of setting the framework for transformation, is undertaken with greater expedition. As we go about our day-to-day business, we must all be convinced, and so should society out there, that we are doing everything possible to act indeed as the power-house of fundamental change.

Madame Speaker: The coming few weeks are some of the most critical in the life of our parliament. The legislators will be calling the executive to account in the Budget Debates. It will be one important forum to address this important matter of the pace of the legislative product issuing from these supreme bodies. It will also be an opportunity to examine, with all serious application, the advances and weaknesses in each field of endeavor. At the beginning of the year, the cabinet bosberaad came to the conclusion that the remarkable national reconciliation and the high degree of political stability had laid a firm foundation to start accelerating socio-economic change. As we approach the middle of the year, and another bosberaad, we should examine these and other questions in more detail. Suffice it here, to identify some of them. The marvelous upturn in the economy, underpinned as it is by growth in manufacturing and a real increase in gross domestic fixed investments, shows that South Africa is set on the road to full recovery. Both the growing confidence of investors and the role RDP projects have had in this positive development, give us the firm conviction that we shall meet all our targets. But it depends on how we nurture and cultivate this newsituation. For instance, to what extent is there a firm commitment by local business to invest in productive rather than speculative operations? To what extent has the manufacturing sector geared itself for the massive programmes that are to unfold in a matter of months, such as the housing schemes? To what extent are our own business houses assisting foreign investors rather than treating them in a hostile manner as antagonistic competitors? To what extent is business committing itself to the extensive human resource development and Research and Development programmes which the new situation demands? On the part of government, there is much more we need to do to facilitate investment. The measures we have taken, or intend to take, on the dual currency system and exchange controls are a positive step forward. However, we need to streamline the administrative machinery for processing investors and ensure that they are not sent from pillar to post in the bureaucratic maze. These and other challenges we need to attend to urgently, if we are to ensure that the central task



of job-creation is carried out. Indeed, the recovery of the economy has started to impact on employment levels. So have the beginnings of RDP projects such as the school nutrition scheme which has created up to 10,000 jobs, other Lead Projects and the Public Works Programme. But, given the desperate situation, this is just a drop in the ocean. We are confident that the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC), will play a crucial role in monitoring and speeding up all these positive developments. It goes without saying that our commitment to fiscal discipline will require constant monitoring and an unbending will. This has to be combined with resolution in shifting priorities towards greater social spending. It is in this spirit that cabinet is finalising proposals for the 1996/97 budget.

Madame Speaker: What is clear, from the point of view of government, is that the capacity to meet our obligations to the nation, especially the poor, relates to more than the scarcity or otherwise of resources. In many cases, funds have been availed; but they are not being utilized with sufficient speed. There are objective reasons for this. Thorough planning is required; and this has necessarily been the main emphasis of the past year. We have to ensure that proper business plans and clear mechanisms of accountability are put in place. Yet we cannot allow a situation in which funds allocated are carried over, again and again, because of these imperatives. I therefore wish to make a solemn commitment today, that the executive will do everything in its power to ensure that this is not the case in the coming year. On the one hand, this will require a systematic programme to enhance the capacity of government to process matters more efficiently and purposefully. It will require better monitoring on the part of national departments. Above all, it demands of our administration as a whole a change of mind-set: a movement away from pre-occupation with paper work to field work. In a sense, this is one of the primary considerations as we shift public expenditure to the benefit of society. Our administration must increasingly be people-focused. On the other hand, communities themselves should be geared for greater initiative. Wherever we are, we should not wait passively until national or provincial governments identify for us the projects to build clinics, schools, roads and other amenities. Masakhane: let us come together in our localities to identify our priority needs; work out how we ourselves can contribute; prepare project proposals; and approach government and the private sector to assist. Indeed, in areas where projects have been successfully launched, such as Ibhayi, Odi-Moretele, Marconi Beam in Cape Town, KwaNobambain Weenen, it was primarily communities themselves who came together to initiate these projects, assisted by government. I wish in this regard, to assure communities that, where they have done so, not only will relevant structures of government respond positively; but also, if there are delays, the RDP section of my office will ensure that blockages are cleared. I also wish to reiterate that those communities who work together to ensure that services are paid for, and with the security forces to stamp out crime, will be seriously considered for priority public investments. Atlantis and Uitenhage are good examples of how all sectors of the community can co-operate to ensure that these investments are utilized to bring about local economic growth. One of the questions that has arisen sharply from our experience over the past year is the issue of relief to communities or groups in dire need. The principled approach of government is that we cannot hope to uplift people on the basis of hand-outs. Provision of skills through the public works programme and comprehensive human resource development, are some of the most critical ways of addressing this problem. However, hand-in-hand with welfare organisations, relevant departments will need to review the programme of such relief. We have to ensure, at least, that people in desperate need of assistance do not find themselves worse off today, on account of our commitment to long-term plans. In this regard, without infringing on elaborate programmes provinces have set themselves, the question of the utilization of the discretionary funds allocated them needs to be closely examined. These funds can be availed relatively quickly to communities. Again and again, all these matters bring us back to the urgent need for a systematic capacity-building programme and an orientation in public service that emphasizes more, the culture of field work and contact with the people. This is one of the major tasks that we need to start undertaking now, in respect of the hundreds of local government structures that will emerge from the elections in November. In urging all South Africans of 18 years and over to register now, we wish again to point out that, it is at this level, where practical work to make the RDP a living reality, will take place. We have identified short-comings not because there are no successes. This is because we have been inspired by our achievements to strive to do better. To eschew symbolism as much as possible, and to get down to serious work, should be our approach as we enter the Second Freedom Year. It is in this context that I have been assessing reports from Ministries and Provinces; and I should congratulate them for the candid manner in which they have accounted for their activities. Through the Cabinet Secretariat and other structures in the President's Office, we will always strive to ensure that an honest appraisal of our achievements and weaknesses is brought to the attention of cabinet, the legislatures and the public at large. This, among other things, allows for timely interventions so that government as a whole pulls in the same direction, and that it functions as an efficient machine. The progress we make, not only in nation-building and reconciliation, but also in establishing good government and steadily meeting the needs of the people, will ensure that we maintain the appreciation and confidence of humanity in South Africa's unique accomplishment. Our voice, on such critical matters as world social development spear-headed by the United Nations, nuclear disarmament and resolution of conflicts will be clearly heard. And on these and other matters, our approach will always be guided by South Africa's interests, the legitimate claim of developing countries for equitable inter-state relations and the right of humanity to a better world. Such are the basic moral and humanitarian pillars of our foreign policy. On this, the 50th anniversary of the victory over Nazism and fascism, and the formation of the United Nations Organisation, we join the world in reaffirming our rejection of all forms of racism, as well as ethnic and religious intolerance. Within our own region and continent, we shall continue to work with others to remove the scourge of conflict and ensure that Africa indeed sets out on her collective renaissance.

Madame Speaker: Our country has taken irreversible steps towards a thorough-going, people-centered and prosperous democracy. If anything, the goodwill and outpouring of emotion on our Freedom Day confirm that we set on this journey with the enthusiastic support and active involvement of the nation as a whole. I hope that through this Budget Debate, we will lay the basis for even greater achievements; that is, if we concentrate on the real concerns of the nation.

We cannot, and dare not fail. I thank you!



## We need your help!

Thanks to everybody who sent their subscriptions and expressed interest in the first edition of Izindaba. This is the second edition of our trial newsletter, which we hope to publish approximately every two months, depending on reader response. In order to make this a long-lasting and successful endeavor, we need your financial assistance and editorial feedback. For those of you who have not yet sent in your subscription fees, we are asking for \$10 which will cover our mailing and photocopying costs for a total of six issues.

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